



The Space Congress® Proceedings

1990 (27th) 90's - Decade Of Opportunity

Apr 25th, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Paper Session II-C - Commercial Space Initiatives

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Stone, Barbara A. and Wood, Peter W., "Paper Session II-C - Commercial Space Initiatives" (1990). *The Space Congress® Proceedings*. 8.

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Commercial Space Initiatives

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally, space technology has been developed and used primarily to meet the needs of civil and military government initiatives. In the future, it will be increasingly featured in two emerging trends: new space enterprises and the national drive to achieve a more competitive global economic position. To realize this potential, private sector initiatives and investment must adapt space technology and access to space to economically attractive, competitive ventures.

While commercial development of space must be carried out in the private sector, it is clear that the Government has an important enabling role. NASA has established the Commercial Programs Advisory Committee (CPAC), to advise NASA on this and other aspects of the commercial development of space. CPAC, which is a standing committee of the NASA Advisory Council, is comprised of senior private sector executives and their university counterparts.

The results of the first year of CPAC's work has been published in the report "Charting the Course: U.S. Space Enterprise and Space Industrial Competitiveness." This paper summarizes the CPAC report and examines promising space business sectors. Additionally, NASA's initiatives which are supportive of commercial space are reviewed. Finally, an up-to-date look at the role of international cooperation in a highly competitive world is offered.